

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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R 220632Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3059
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USICA WASHDC

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USICA FOR VOA/PN, PGM/RC, PGM/PPE, EU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, TU, CZ, UR
SUBJECT: TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA
MARKED BY PROTESTS: AEROFLOT OFFICE STONED

1. ACCORDING TO VARIOUS TURKISH MEDIA ACCOUNTS ON AUGUST 20
AND 21, SEVERAL ANTI-SOVIET LEFTIST GROUPS COMMEMORATED
THE AUGUST 20, 1968 SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITH
PROTEST MEETINGS, AND IN ANKARA THE OFFICE OF AEROFLOT
WAS ATTACKED BY DEMONSTRATORS. ALTHOUGH THE PRESS GIVES
VARYING ACCOUNTS OF THE INCIDENT AT THE AEROFLOT OFFICE,
THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT A GROUP OF 40-50
CHANTING 'REVOLUTIONARY' YOUTHS MARCHED TO THE OFFICE,
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WHICH WAS CLOSED, AND PROCEEDED TO SMASH WINDOWS AND
DISPLAYS WITH ROCKS AND STICKS. THE GROUP REPORTEDLY
DISPERSED BEFORE POLICE ARRIVED AT THE SCENE. THE
DEMONSTRATORS REPORTEDLY CARRIED PLACARDS BEARING SLOGANS
GENERALLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE PRO-PEKING TURKISH WORKERS'
AND PEASANTS' PARTY (TIKP) INCLUDING: "NEITHER AMERICA
NOR RUSSIA, INDEPENDENT TURKEY," "WE CURSE THE RUSSIAN

OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA," AND "THE CZECH PEOPLE WILL OVERCOME THE SOCIAL IMPERIALISTS."

2. ALSO ON AUGUST 20, ACCORDING TO SEVERAL PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE TIKP SPONSORED A PROTEST MEETING IN ISTANBUL. PARTY OFFICIALS BLASTED THE SOVIET UNION FOR THE 'INVASION AND OCCUPATION' OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND CALLED FOR AN END TO SOCIALIST (I.E. RUSSIAN) IMPERIALISM.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA RATED STRAIGHT NEWS STORIES IN NEARLY ALL PAPERS, IT WAS THE LEAD ITEM IN PRO-CHINESE AYDINLIK AND PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR ELEMENTS OF ANTI-SOVIET TURKISH LEFT TO HIGHLIGHT MOST GLARING EXAMPLE OF 'SOVIET IMPERIALISM.' THE INCIDENT AT THE AEROFLOT OFFICE APPEARS TO BE YET ANOTHER MANIFESTATION OF THE SOMETIMES VIOLENT SPLITS IN THE TURKISH LEFT. FURTHERMORE, THE ATTACK ON AN UNOFFICIAL SOVIET PRESENCE MAY REPRESENT A NEW TACTIC IN TURKEY'S ONGOING DOMESTIC POLITICAL VIOLENCE. END COMMENT.
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